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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

FS 542

Sharing the Commitment:

Partnerships for Wildlife, Fish, & Rare Plants On the National Forests

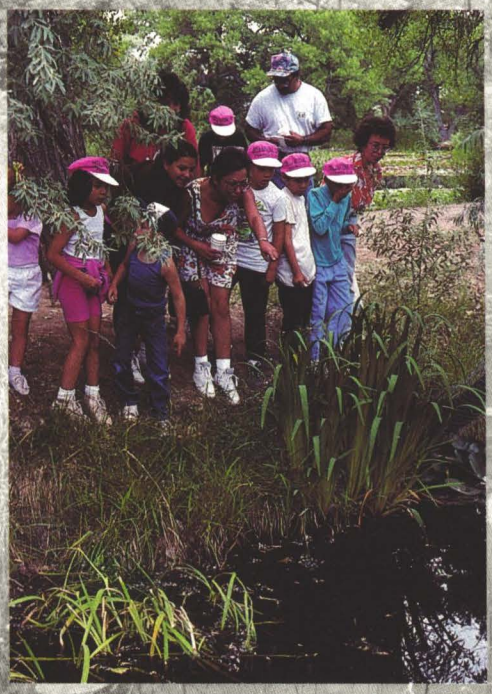


PHOTO CREDITS

Front Cover

Scenic waterway—Jill Anderson/FS-WO
Brown bear with cubs—Larry Aumiller/Chugach NF
Aquatic habitat investigation—Beverly deGruyter/Cibola NF
Plant identification—FS 90-CS-2014

Back Cover

Bobwhite quail—Andrew Wilson/FS #98019
Releasing an osprey—Ken Hammond/FS 90-CS-2909

Chief's Message

JAY LANGSTON/NAT'L. WILD TURKEY FED.

A three-way partnership among the National Wild Turkey Federation, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC), and USDA Forest Service resulted in the banding and subsequent release of wild turkeys on the Ouachita National Forest. USDA Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson looks on as AGFC biologist Mike Widner bands a gobbler.

***Get Wild!*, *Rise to the Future!*, *and* *Every Species Counts*...**
Forest Service Partnership Programs that Get the Job Done!

The National Forest System lands support a spectacular array of wildlife, fish, and plants, while providing social, ecological, recreational, and economic benefits to all people. Last year, this national treasure hosted 105.2 million activity days of fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature study.

Through its Wildlife and Fisheries Program, and in cooperation with numerous conservation partners, the Forest Service manages habitat to produce wildlife and fish, maintain and protect ecosystems, recover and conserve rare species, and benefit all national forest and grassland users. It is only through the spirited dedication and support of our numerous partners that the Agency continues to move forward in its efforts to provide healthy ecosystems.

This publication is a tribute to our nearly 2,500 partners: the 44 State fish and wildlife agencies, 43 State Natural Heritage Inventory Programs, other Federal agencies, conservation groups, civic organizations, and individuals who, together with the employees of the Agency, completed more than 2,100 habitat improvement projects for wildlife, fish, and rare plants last year. It illustrates the diverse accomplishments of the Forest Service and our partners to improve habitat, host exciting information and education programs, and provide unparalleled recreational opportunities for forest visitors.

We in the Forest Service want to thank you for making a big difference in the quality of wildlife, fish, and rare plant management on the national forests and grasslands. We look forward to building an even stronger partnership program in the future.

F. Dale Robertson

F. Dale Robertson
Chief, USDA Forest Service

Our Diverse Resources

The 156 national forests and 20 national grasslands support a rich diversity of habitats—from subarctic tundra to tropical rain forest—for more than 3,000 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, and amphibians, as well as for some 10,000 plant species. These resources include:

- More than 2 million acres of lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; 200,000 miles of perennial streams; and 16,500 miles of coastline.
- Half the spawning and rearing habitat in the lower 48 States for salmon and steelhead trout.
- Eighty percent of the Nation's habitat for elk, wild sheep, and mountain goat.
- Nearly 22 million acres of habitat supporting more than 350,000 wild turkeys.
- In excess of 15 million acres and 60 million acres of habitat for quail and grouse, respectively.

ANDREW WILSON/FS #787110

The 191-million-acre National Forest System also provides habitat for more than 240 threatened or endangered species, including the least Bell's vireo, grizzly bear, mountain golden heather, northern spotted owl, and Paiute cutthroat trout. More than 2,250 Agency-designated sensitive species—those for which special stewardship is needed—also make their homes on national forests and grasslands.

ROY MURPHY/FS 00-CS-1572

VICTOR & DEANNE BRADFIELD/NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY UNLIMITED

The national forests and grasslands support diverse flora and fauna, such as the western tanager, California newt, and spineless hedgehog cactus.

Unparalleled Uses

In 1992, the national forests and grasslands provided an array of recreational, commercial, and subsistence uses and associated benefits, including:

JIM HUGHES/FS 89-CS-1761

- 49.1 million angler days of recreational fishing, with an economic value of more than $2 billion.
- Nearly 200 million pounds of commercially harvested fish, valued at almost $212 million.
- More than 800,000 pounds of fish harvested for subsistence use.
- 26 million activity days of hunting, with an economic value of nearly $950 million.
- 30.1 million activity days of wildlife watching, including photography and nature study, at an estimated economic worth of almost $790 million.

In addition to providing enjoyment, these activities supported an estimated 103,540 jobs related to natural resource recreation and tourism goods and services, while generating an estimated $2.2 billion in local community income.

As public interest in conserving biodiversity and wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing grows, so too does the challenge to manage these resources. This challenge will only be met through investments of leadership, energy, creativity, time, and support from numerous conservation partners.

SANDY FROST/CHUGACH NF

VICTOR & DEANNE BRADFIELD/NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY UNLIMITED

Providing enormous economic and recreational benefits, the national forests and grasslands are visited by millions of people each year. Fishing, birdwatching, and hunting are among the activities enjoyed by forest visitors.

Partners in Habitat Management

In 1986, the United States Congress established the *Challenge Cost-Share Program*—a unique venture in which State and private sectors share in both the management and the cost of Federal habitat improvement programs. Congressional funding of Forest Service *Challenge Cost-Share* projects is contingent upon receipt of matching contributions from conservation groups, private enterprises, individuals, or other public agencies.

The program encourages direct public involvement in managing wildlife and fish habitats on national forests and grasslands. Partnerships involve matching monies, labor, and equipment or sharing technical skills. In all cases, the results are the same—on-the-ground resource improvements to benefit wildlife, fish, plants, and people.

In 1992, the Forest Service partnered with thousands of people from hundreds of organizations and agencies like The American Fisheries Society, Defenders of Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, Garden Club of America, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Sport Fishing Institute, and Trout Unlimited. Partners also included representatives from government agencies on all levels, including 44 State fish and wildlife agencies, 43 State Natural Heritage Inventory Programs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

KEN HAMMOND/FS 90-CS-2842

VICTOR CUEVAS/CARIBBEAN NF

Partnerships for habitat improvement: through *Challenge Cost-Share* projects, hundreds of organizations and agencies participate in wildlife, fish, and plant habitat management. On the National Forests in North Carolina, partners assist with a plant survey in a southern pine forest, while on the Caribbean National Forest in Puerto Rico, biologists sample fish in a tropical stream.

Success Through Teamwork

The Forest Service and its partners turned $11.5 million in congressionally appropriated funds into more than $26.7 million in completed habitat improvement projects in 1992. The number of partners has grown from 57 when the program began in 1986 to nearly 2,500 in 1992.

Last year, partners helped make possible the completion of 2,111 habitat improvement projects for wildlife, fish, and rare plants on national forests and grasslands. Projects included structural improvements, such as watering guzzlers for elk, roosting boxes for bats, fragile streamside fencing to protect rare plants, and fish passages for salmon and steelhead trout. Non-structural improvements included use of prescribed burning to improve forage conditions for white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and grouse, and seeding roadsides to enhance turkey nesting and brood-rearing habitat.

Forest Service partnership initiatives are extending and expanding the fish, wildlife, and rare plant resources on national forests and grasslands to meet the needs of generations to come. The diversity of partnerships, expertise, and shared commitment required to get the job done are illustrated by a closer look at the following three programs:

GET WILD! *Partnerships for the 90s*

Get Wild! A national venture that includes efforts to manage habitat for all forms of wildlife.

EVERY SPECIES COUNTS

Every Species Counts. A national effort to recover threatened and endangered species and conserve sensitive species.

RISE TO THE FUTURE

Rise to the Future! A national program that emphasizes improving fisheries and aquatic habitat and recreational fishing opportunities.

The FishAmerica Foundation and others supported construction and installation of 40,000 plastic structures that provide cover for fish in Saguaro and Canyon Lakes on the Tonto National Forest, Arizona.

JEFF TOPPING/FS 00-CS-1684

Get Wild!

The national forests and grasslands harbor the greatest diversity of wildlife—from songbirds to majestic elk—under any single land ownership nationwide. Begun in 1988, the ***Get Wild!*** program complements efforts to manage and enhance these diverse wildlife resources. Within the framework of this program, the Forest Service cooperates with State and Federal agencies, as well as wildlife interest groups, to inventory and improve habitats, survey and monitor wildlife populations, provide educational and interpretive programs for forest users, and protect special habitats, such as snags and riparian areas.

Get Wild! is made up of 11 emphasis areas:

- *Eyes on Wildlife* for wildlife viewing and appreciation,
- *Partners in Flight* for neotropical migratory bird conservation,
- *Taking Wing* for waterfowl,
- *Making Tracks* for wild turkey,
- *Answer the Call* for quail,
- *Full Curl* for wild sheep,
- *A Million Bucks* for deer,
- *Dancers in the Forest* for grouse and woodcock,
- *Animal Inn*, an information and education program about wildlife dependent upon dead wood,
- *Ecosystem Management/Restoration and Special Habitats* for unique species groups and communities, and
- *Elk Country* for elk.

It is within these emphasis areas that the Forest Service and its partners team up to restore, maintain, or improve habitat for wildlife.

LEE CARR/FS 00-CS-1550

Through *Get Wild!* partnership initiatives, people from hundreds of organizations team up with the Forest Service to improve habitat for numerous species, including mountain goats.

1992 HIGHLIGHTS

- 114 ***Eyes on Wildlife*** projects, including construction of a mountain goat viewing site on the Challis National Forest in partnership with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and development of a bird checklist on the San Bernardino National Forest with the support of the San Bernardino County Museum.

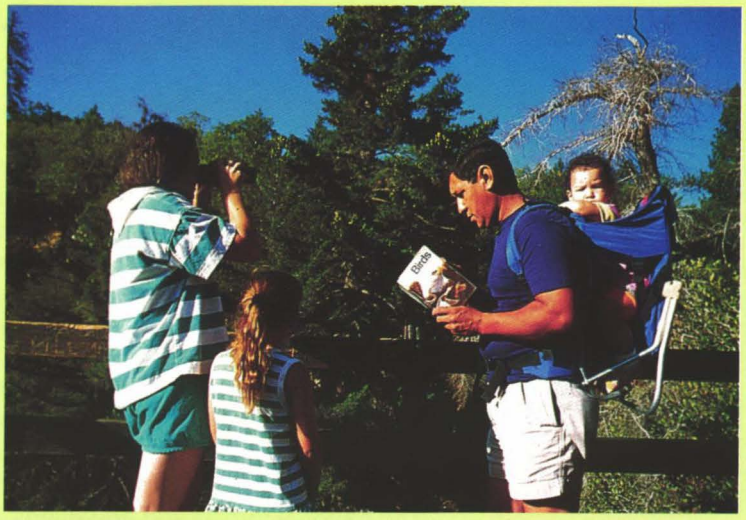
- 56 neotropical migratory bird projects (***Partners in Flight***) in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, State wildlife agencies, and numerous international and national conservation groups. On the Finger Lakes National Forest, the Forest joined Cornell University and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish 2 permanent breeding bird survey plots as part of a 10-State network of plots for monitoring productivity.

- 92 ***Taking Wing*** projects, many in conjunction with Ducks Unlimited, local sports clubs, Waterfowl USA, and State and other Federal wildlife agencies. On the Black Hills National Forest, the forest and Ducks Unlimited created a prairie wetland to provide nesting and resting habitat for waterfowl.

- 144 ***Elk Country*** projects. The Lolo National Forest in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, University of Montana, and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks inventoried 30,000 acres of winter range to determine availability and productivity of plants eaten by elk.

- 127 ***Making Tracks*** projects in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation and State wildlife agencies. On the Black Hills National Forest, the National Wild Turkey Federation assisted with improvement of 390 acres of habitat for Merriam's turkey.

Through *Eyes on Wildlife*, partners help the Forest Service build wildlife viewing sites and manage habitats for watchable wildlife. The *Taking Wing* program brings together the expertise, support, and commitment of Ducks Unlimited and others to improve and protect habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds.



BARNEY ZIMMERMAN/FS 92-CS-0044

CURT GIVEN/FS 00-CS-3309

GET WILD!

1992 EXPENDITURES

Total budget: $38.1 million
Challenge Cost-Share Program
- Forest Service contributions: $4.4 million
- Partner contributions: $6.2 million

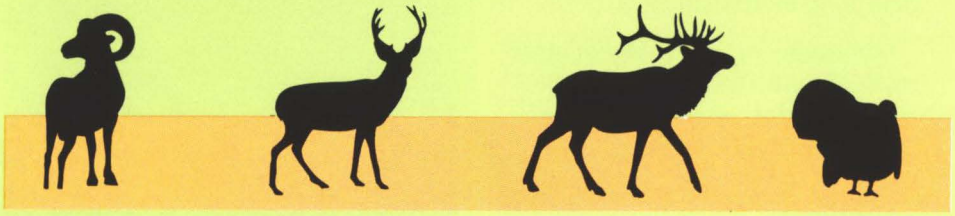
1992 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Challenge Cost-Share Program
- 143,307 acres improved
- 3,853 structures completed

Other funds
- 314,300 acres improved
- 9,742 structures completed

Number of Challenge Cost-Share projects completed: 939

ESTIMATED BIG GAME POPULATIONS ON THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM*



Bighorn sheep	Deer	Elk	Turkey
26,100	3,420,000	597,000	352,000

ESTIMATED OCCUPIED HABITAT ON THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM*

Grouse	Quail
60.2 million acres	15.1 million acres

*Source: USDA Forest Service, 4/93

Every Species Counts

1992 HIGHLIGHTS

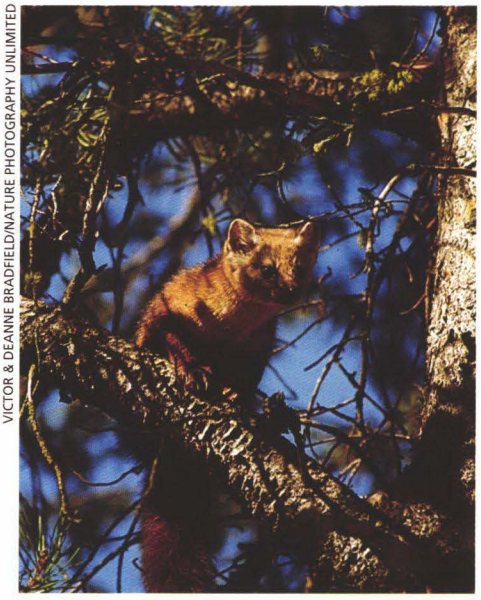
- Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on 148 recovery plans, including plans for the American peregrine falcon, black-footed ferret, and northern spotted owl.
- Investment of $2 million in the long-range grizzly bear recovery program to improve habitat, reduce human-grizzly bear conflicts, manage access to grizzly bear habitat, and provide public education materials.
- Kickoff of a new initiative, ***Celebrating Wildflowers***, that drew thousands of wildflower enthusiasts to view plants and participate in interpretive programs on national forests.
- Development of a habitat conservation assessment for bull trout in the Northern Region, in cooperation with several State fish and wildlife agencies, the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, and other Federal and private groups.
- Application of prescribed fires on the Francis Marion National Forest to increase the number of smooth purple coneflower plants from fewer than 50 to more than 300.
- Monitoring of fishers and martens in the Pacific Northwest to determine abundance and habitat requirements.
- Surveys for black-footed ferrets on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland in South Dakota, a likely site for establishing a second wild ferret population.

The ***Every Species Counts*** program manages threatened and endangered species, as well as Agency-designated sensitive species. More than 240 threatened or endangered species—approximately one-third of all federally listed species—have some habitat on national forests and grasslands. More than 2,250 sensitive species, those for which special management is required to prevent the need for Federal listing, are also found on these lands.

Every Species Counts is a partnership program that brings together the expertise, resources, and commitment of the Forest Service, other Federal and State agencies, and private organizations, such as the Garden Club of America and The Nature Conservancy, to recover and conserve rare species. Through ***Every Species Counts***, the Forest Service continues to branch out to manage, protect, and conserve plant communities and aquatic species.

The national forests and grasslands are the last stronghold for much of the Nation's native plants, wildlife, and fish. The Forest Service, in cooperation with other agencies, academic institutions, and concerned citizens, has become a leader in the new science of conservation biology. Management activities for well-publicized species—including the northern spotted owl, Mt. Graham red squirrel, red-cockaded woodpecker, gray wolf, grizzly bear, and Mexican spotted owl—are breaking new ground in applying conservation biology. The lessons we learn are proving essential to ensuring the long-term persistence and health of much of the continent's biodiversity.

In the future, the ***Every Species Counts*** program will focus recovery and restoration efforts in 13 major ecological areas, from the Great Basin to the tropical forests of Puerto Rico. Management efforts will be aimed at restoring ecosystems, and at developing and implementing species recovery plans, habitat and species inventories, and monitoring efforts. The support of our partners becomes even more critical as we embark on an ecosystem approach to managing habitats of imperiled species.



VICTOR & DEANNE BRADFIELD/NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY UNLIMITED

KEN HAMMOND/FS 90-CS-2877

American martens, pitcher plants, sensitive briars and Puerto Rican parrots are among the many threatened, endangered, or sensitive species living on our national forests and grasslands.

FRANCISCO VALENZUELA/CARIBBEAN NF

RALPH COSTA/FS 93-WF-1802

EVERY SPECIES COUNTS

1992 EXPENDITURES

Total budget: $28.9 million
Challenge Cost-Share Program
- Forest Service contributions: $3.5 million
- Partner contributions: $4.3 million

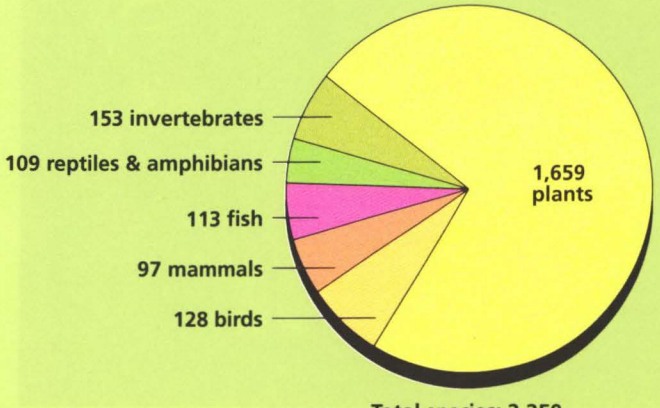
1992 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Challenge Cost-Share Program
- 29,209 acres improved
- 2,293 structures completed
- 4.9 million acres inventoried
- 5,432 miles of habitat inventoried

Other funds
- 211,985 acres improved
- 4,713 structures completed
- 11.4 million acres inventoried
- 7,521 miles of habitat inventoried

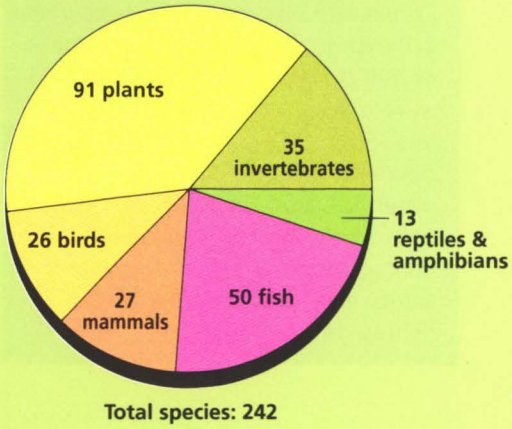
Number of Challenge Cost-Share projects completed: 689

FOREST SERVICE SENSITIVE SPECIES*



Total species: 2,259

THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS*



Total species: 242

*Source: USDA Forest Service, 4/93

Rise to the Future!

By the year 2040, public demand for quality fishing experiences is expected to double. As more and more Americans take to our national forests to fish, the need to conserve and enhance these resources becomes even greater.

The 2.1 million acres of fishable lakes, ponds, and reservoirs and more than 200,000 miles of perennial streams on National Forest System lands support hundreds of inland and anadromous fish species with important recreational, commercial, cultural, scientific, and ecological values. More than 75 fish and other aquatic species federally listed as threatened or endangered and more than 340 Agency-designated sensitive aquatic species make their homes in and around the waterways of the national forests and grasslands.

The Forest Service's fisheries program, ***Rise to the Future!***, coordinates aquatic habitat management goals, plans, and programs with State, Federal, and tribal agencies and fish interest groups. Currently, ***Rise to the Future!*** management activities focus on inland fish, such as walleye, trout, bass, nongame fish (e.g., various darters, shiners, and chubs), mussels, aquatic insects, amphibians, and other aquatic species, as well as anadromous fish, such as salmon, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat trout.

JIM HUGHES/FS 89-CS-1817

Programs such as *Take a Kid Fishing* provide channels through which outreach to minorities is broadened.

1992 HIGHLIGHTS

- Through ***Bring Back the Natives!***, a component of ***Rise to the Future!***, and in cooperation with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Bureau of Land Management, the Yaggey Foundation, and numerous local partners, the Forest Service initiated 20 projects to restore the health of entire watersheds and their native fish communities. Within Nevada's Marys River watershed, 176 miles of stream were improved for threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout, wetland and riparian habitats were inventoried, baseline water quality data were gathered, and aerial photography for Geographical Information System analysis was completed. This project drew support of more than 150 volunteers who helped plant 6,700 aspen, alder, and chokecherry along the river and its tributaries.

- "Fish Your National Forests" captures the intent of ***National Fishing Week***, a celebration of recreational fishing that is enthusiastically supported by the Forest Service and its civic partners. During this week, local fishing events on national forests emphasize the importance of family outdoor activities and demonstrate the agency's commitment to sport fish management and recreational fishing opportunities. Last year, the Forest Service and partners hosted 219 events that reached more than 46,700 children and adults. Efforts were made to reach all forest users, including the elderly, people with disabilities, inner city youth, and other non-traditional user groups. Participants learned about aquatic ecology, angling ethics, and water safety as well as participated in fishing derbies.

1992 HIGHLIGHTS

- ***Salmon and Steelhead Management.*** Providing habitat conditions in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska that contribute to recovery and sustained natural production of more than 400 stocks of salmon and steelhead—of which more than 200 are imperiled—is a shared management goal of the Forest Service and other Federal and State agencies, tribal governments, and civic and conservation partners. Underway is an effort to develop a management strategy that will focus on protection and restoration of watersheds important to the survival of these fishes.

In cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Northern Southeast Alaska Regional Aquaculture Association, the Forest Service continued a long-term project to restore sockeye salmon on Redoubt Lake. Lake fertilization resulted in the return of salmon runs averaging 49,000 fish in 1992, up from a low of 8,000 just a few years ago. Last year, Redoubt Lake provided 16 percent of Alaska's subsistence sockeye salmon harvest.

Through partnerships with Amerifish Corporation, The American Fisheries Society, Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, Inc., Desert Fishes Council, Federation of Fly Fishers, Sport Fishing Institute, Trout Unlimited, and others, the Forest Service protects, restores, and enhances aquatic habitats. Partnerships also support monitoring of river, stream, and lake habitats and interpretive, educational, and recreational opportunities for forest visitors.

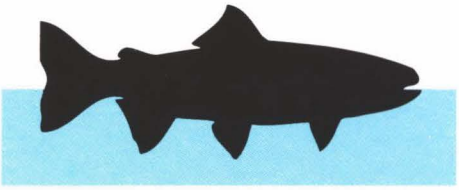
LARRY S. AUEN/FS 00-CS-1721

Numerous partners, such as this group of senior citizens, assist with aquatic habitat sampling and monitoring efforts.

DAVE PARRISH/FS 00-CS-1573

Under *Rise to the Future!*, habitat improvements benefit not only fish, but numerous other species dependent upon healthy aquatic habitat, such as frogs, salamanders, various insects, and plants.

ESTIMATED FISHERIES RESOURCES ON THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM*

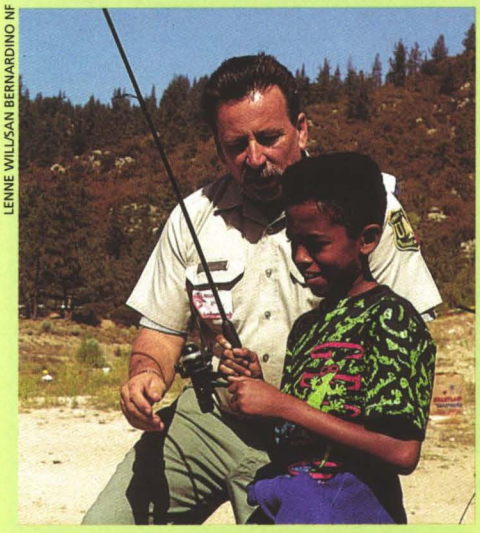


- 2.1 million acres of fishable lakes, ponds, and reservoirs
- 200,000 miles of perennial streams
- 16,500 miles of coastline
- 195 million lbs. of commercially harvested salmon

*Source: USDA Forest Service, 4/93

JIM HUGHES/FS 89-CS-1785

Hands-on educational programs are just one of many activities held on national forests and grasslands during *National Fishing Week.*



LENNE WILLSAN BERNARDINO NF

RISE TO THE FUTURE!

1992 EXPENDITURES

Total budget: $45.5 million
- Inland fish programs: $18.5 million
- Salmon and steelhead programs: $27 million

Challenge Cost-Share Program
- Forest Service contributions
  - Inland fish: $1.8 million
  - Salmon and steelhead: $1.8 million
- Partner contributions
  - Inland fish: $2.7 million
  - Salmon and steelhead: $2 million

1992 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Challenge Cost-Share Program
- Inland fish
  - 10,624 acres of lakes improved
  - 462 miles of streams improved
  - 26,333 acres of lakes inventoried
  - 1,664 miles of streams inventoried
- Salmon and steelhead
  - 508 acres of lakes improved
  - 265 miles of streams improved
  - 404 miles of streams inventoried

Other funds
- Inland fish
  - 24,975 acres of lakes improved
  - 928 miles of streams improved
  - 50,484 acres of lakes inventoried
  - 5,060 miles of streams inventoried
- Salmon and steelhead
  - 6,560 acres of lakes improved
  - 487 miles of streams improved
  - 3,799 acres of lakes inventoried
  - 3,914 miles of streams inventoried

Number of Challenge Cost-Share projects completed: 483

Trends in Funding and Staffing

The Budget

Funding for the Wildlife and Fisheries Program has grown dramatically since the late 1970's, increasing from about $27 million in 1978 to more than $116 million in 1993. This growth corresponds to increased public recognition of the value of fish and wildlife and the tremendous response by State, Federal, and private groups to match Challenge Cost-Share dollars for increased habitat improvement. It also reflects the tremendous increase in workload of Agency biologists who are involved in the planning and review of thousands of timber sales, range allotment management plans, and minerals cases annually to ensure that these activities are completed in an environmentally sensitive manner.

The Work Force

The success of the Wildlife and Fisheries Program reflects the quality and dedication of its work force. Today, Forest Service biologists face complex resource management challenges. In addition to fulfilling roles as caretakers of plant and animal resources on National Forest System lands, these men and women are skilled in conflict resolution, budget management, and communications. More than 1,250 wildlife and fisheries biologists and botanists provide a critical link to land stewardship for the future. Working in all types of environments—from offices and laboratories, to mountains, lakes, forests, and prairies—biologists work on interdisciplinary teams with recreation, range, minerals, watershed, engineering, and timber management professionals to ensure conservation of wildlife, fish, and rare plants.

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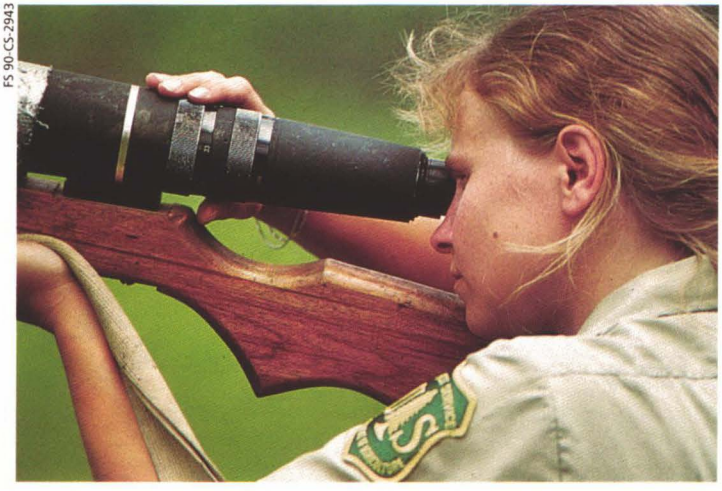

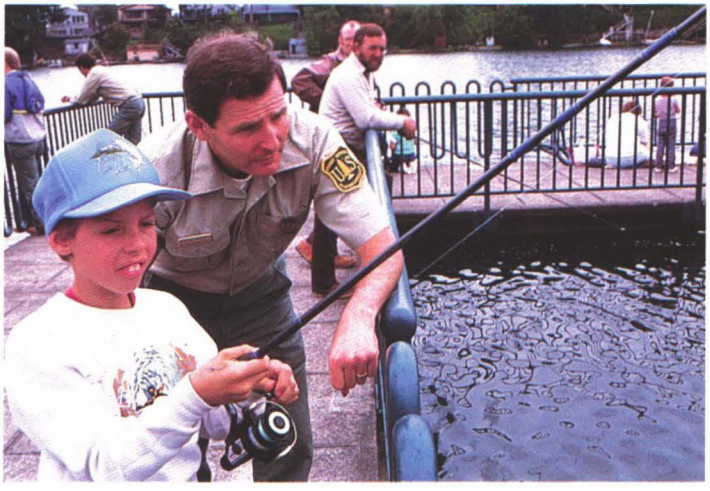

FS 89-CS-1816

Forest Service biologists face complex resource management challenges. In addition to expertise in wildlife, fisheries, or plant management, these women and men are skilled in resolving conflict, managing budgets, and teaching others about natural resources. Duties are diverse, ranging from surveying shorebirds using a shoulder stock-mounted spotting scope to teaching a child basic angling techniques.

The Partners

The following organizations and agencies are among the nearly 2,500 partners with whom the Forest Service is working to conserve, manage, and restore wildlife, fish, and rare plant resources on the National Forest System. To our partners in conservation, we extend our appreciation.

American Birding Association
The American Fisheries Society
American Forest Council
Amerifish Corporation
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, Inc.
Berkley, Inc.
British Columbia Ministry of Environment
British Columbia Ministry of Forests
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
The Center for Environmental Study
Center for Plant Conservation
Cornell University, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
Defenders of Wildlife
Department of the Air Force
Department of the Army
Department of the Navy
Desert Fishes Council
Ducks Unlimited
Environmental Law Institute
Environmental Protection Agency
Federation of Fly Fishers
FishAmerica Foundation
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
Garden Club of America
The In-fisherman, Inc.
International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
The Izaak Walton League of America, Inc.

The Keystone Center
The Mule Deer Foundation
National Association of State Foresters
National Audubon Society
National Council of Catholic Women
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Forest Products Association
National Park Service
National Rifle Association of America
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
National Woodlands Owners Association
The Nature Conservancy
Quail Unlimited, Inc.
Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
The Ruffed Grouse Society
Safari Club International
Society of American Foresters
Soil Conservation Society
The Sport Fishing Institute
Times Mirror Magazines, Inc.
Trout Unlimited
U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Utah State University, Forest Resources Department
Walmart Stores, Inc.
Waterfowl USA Limited, Inc.
Whitetails Unlimited, Inc.
Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Council
Wildlife Management Institute
The Wildlife Society, Inc.

Many thanks to the 44 State fish and wildlife agencies, 43 State Natural Heritage Inventory Programs, Native American tribes, and numerous local businesses, tourism and recreation organizations, sporting groups, and volunteers who willingly and enthusiastically support habitat improvement work on the national forests and grasslands.

Recognizing the Potential and Meeting the Challenge

Through habitat improvement projects and the unparalleled support of hundreds of partners, many species have returned to habitats once abandoned. Special plant habitats and ecosystems have been identified and protected. Wetlands have been improved by the construction of nesting islands and platforms. Fisheries have benefited from development of spawning gravels, construction of fish passages and barriers, and restoration of watersheds. Despite these improvements and growth in numbers of conservation partners, a significant, but not insurmountable, task lies before the Forest Service to ensure the conservation of wildlife, fish, and plant resources on national forests and grasslands. Through strong, positive, customer-oriented programs like ***Get Wild!***, ***Rise to the Future!***, and ***Every Species Counts***, the Forest Service and partners can safeguard much of the Nation's biodiversity and, at the same time, contribute to local, regional, and national economies.

FS 00-CS-2743

BARRY NEHR/FS 00-CS-1998

MARY LYNN CAGLE/FS 00-CS-1924

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Join Us!

Opportunities abound for new partnerships on the national forests and grasslands. For information on becoming a partner for wildlife, fish, and rare plants, contact your local USDA Forest Service office or write to the national headquarters at the following address:

USDA Forest Service
Wildlife and Fisheries Program
14th Street & Independence Ave., SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

May 1993